(b) if so, what reciprocal action Pakistan Government took in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that as reported in an interview to the Washington Post, President Musharraf has stated that he had not promised to shut down terrorist camps in POK; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan President General Musharraf had committed on May 27 and June 6 to end cross-border infiltration and on a permanent basis. On June 10, in recognition of this commitment, Government of India had announced the removal of restrictions on over-flights by Pakistani aircraft that had been in place since January 2002, following the attack on our Parliament. Pakistan has not taken any subsequent steps on the matter.

(c) On June 22, 2002 Pakistan President General Musharraf, during his interview to the Newsweek, tried to backtrack on his commitment to stop cross border infiltration on a permanent basis. He claimed that he gave no assurance that 'for years nothing will happen' across the LoC or that he made any commitment on closing the terrorist camps. This was rebutted, including by both US and UK.

(d) Government are firmly resolved to continue taking all necessary measures to defeat Pakistan's sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.

Unsettled issues between India and Bangladesh

951. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues pending settlement between India and Bangladesh; and

(b) what steps have been taken for early settlement of pending issues to ensure improvement in the relationship between the two neighbourly countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A stretch of boundary of 6.5 kms. length with Bangladesh is pending demarcation as also exchange

of adverse possessions and enclaves. The Government of India and Bangladesh have set up Joint Boundary Working Groups to address the demarcation of the 6.5 kms. stretch of the boundary as well as the exchange of adverse possessions and enclaves. The Government of India is committed to an early settlement of all boundary related issues with Bangladesh.

Difficulties in availing passports under Tatkal Scheme

952. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned, "Tatkal Passport only if you pull right strings" which appeared in 'The Statesman' dated 1st July, 2002; highlighting practical difficulties in availing of the "Tatkal" Scheme:

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken, if any, to rationalise the scheme to fulfil its original objective to help the genuine people who need passports in a hurry and are willing to pay more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, normally Passport are issued on receipt of a clear Police Verificaton Report which *inter-alia* establishes the applicant's nationality and character. Recognising the needs of some applicants for out of turn passports, the Tatkal scheme was introduced by the Government for issue of out of turn passports in cases of genuine urgency on postpolice verification basis. Since in these cases passports are issued before receipt of a clear police report, it was decided that the applicants would need to produce a verification certificate issued by an officer of the Government of India who in effect certifies the applicant's Nationality and antecedents. This is primarily to ensure that criminals and other undesirable elements do not misuse the scheme to obtain passports.

Misuse of DTAA by OCBs

953. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to review Double Tax Avoidance